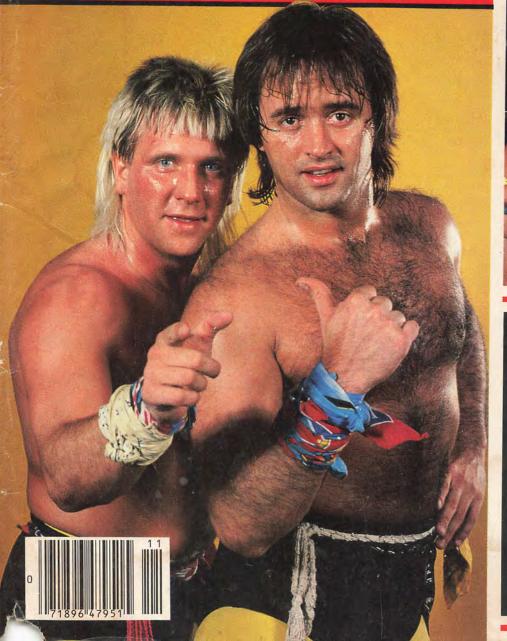


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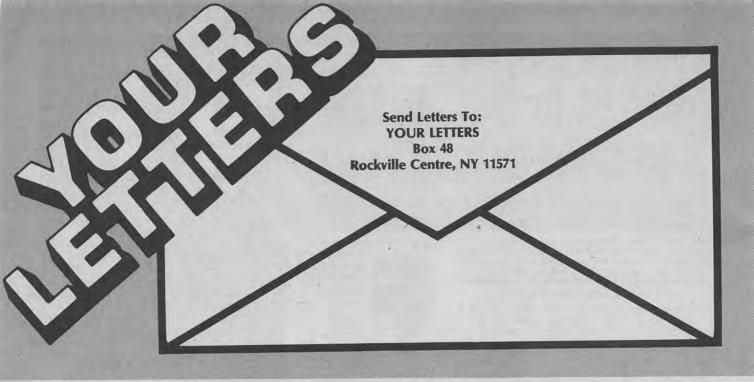
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ANYONE BUT FLAIR!

I'm writing to express my approval of the World Class area's decision to withdraw from the NWA.

That wimp Ric Flair is the sorriest excuse for a world champion ever. Having followed the NWA closely for



Ric Flair is not a deserving champion, writes David Linthicum, who supports the World Class' withdrawal from the NWA.

the past several years, I've lost count of the times I have seen Flair cleanly pinned, only to retain the belt due to some stupid technicality. Anyone with at least one active brain cell can see that Flair is being protected by the NWA.

The Wrestler quoted NWA President Bob Geigel as saying that the

World Class' decision for loss of title on disqualification would cause "chaos... there would be a new champion every night." Well, Mr. Geigel, I'd rather have a new winning champion every night than have to put up with that pathetic loser Flair year after year.

DAVID LINTHICUM Frederick, MD

WORST DECISION EVER?

I'd just like to comment on a couple of things I've seen lately. First, the AWA has made stupid decisions in the past involving The Road Warriors, Rick Martel, Michael Hayes, and many more. But to strip Stan Hansen of his title and *give* it to Nick Bockwinkel is the worst of all time! This is the second time they have given him the belt. What kind of hold does Bockwinkel have over AWA bigshot Stanley Blackburn?

I'm sure Hansen had good reason for leaving the building. Maybe he just got fed up with facing the same man night after night and said the hell with the title. Only Hansen knows for sure, and he's not talking. I think Stan should go to the WWF, hook up with Bobby Heenan, and then destroy that geek Hogan. As for Bockwinkel, well, it's sad to see a oncegreat wrestler and champion now



Nick Bockwinkel surveys the damage after hitting Larry Zbyszko in the nose with his nunchakus. Tony McLaughlin opposes the AWA's decision to award Bockwinkel the AWA belt.

having to rely on Blackburn for titles. What a shame.

Also, I'd like to say that Blackjack Mulligan is scum. In Florida he acted like some hero fighting Kevin Sullivan and his crew. Now that he is in Texas, Mulligan is worse than Sullivan ever was. I think Bruiser Brody is going to clear Blackjack's mind up for him and just plain beat the hell out of him and his sissy manager Percy Pringle.

TONY McLAUGHLIN LaFayette, IN

BE FAIR!

The WWF is definitely a federation that needs its principles revamped, but the people of *The Wrestler* aren't (Continued on page 49)



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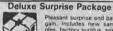
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OR THE THIRD time in his career, Dusty Rhodes has fulfilled the American dream and captured the NWA World heavyweight championship.

Rhodes defeated Ric Flair in a steel cage on July 26 in Greensboro, North Carolina, on the main event on the 13th card in the Great American Bash series. The match, as expected, was a classic. Each wrestler appeared to have the match won on numerous occasions, but a decision still hadn't been reached after 22 minutes of action. Both wrestlers were tired and bleeding. Flair, especially, was showing the strain of his 12 previous title defenses during the Bash, Finally, Dusty executed a series of elbowsmashes and small packaged Flair for the pin, much to the astonishment and ecstasy of the large crowd.

Thus, Ric Flair's third title reign after two years, ended months, and two days. Dusty had originally won the title on August 21, 1979, when he defeated Harley Race. He beat Race again on June 21, 1981, to begin his second title reign.



Dusty Rhodes pulls Ric Flair to his feet by the hair en route to his stunning title victory. Rhodes is now a three-time NWA World champion.

Doll, Magnum T.A., The Road Warriors, and The Rock 'n' Roll Express as he paraded around the ring with the belt immediately after his victory. Later, he spent over an hour speaking with reporters in the dressing room. The victory party lasted late into the night and attracted a virtual who's who of wrestling celebrities.

In the loser's dressing room, however. Flair was his usual cocky self and declared that he would regain the title within a month. "August 31 is the target date," said Flair, "although I'd like to win it Rhodes was mobbed by Baby back as fast as possible. There's

no way that a fat, old, overweight, untalented thing like Dusty Rhodes can keep the title for more than a few days. In fact, I'd like to say, for the record, that Dusty won't get past his first title defense."

As it turned out, Flair was wrong on that account. The following evening in Dallas, Rhodes pinned Flair for the second straight time. Afterward, Flair was far more silent than he was the night before and it's apparent to me that the exchampion will have to regroup and perhaps change his strategy if he has any hopes of regaining the belt.

Four days earlier in Tampa, Florida, Lex Lugar lost his Southern title to The Masked Superstar. According to my sources, Lugar's foot was caught in the ring ropes and Superstar put a weapon in his mask and headbutted the champ, leading to the pin. Observers in Tampa say that there should have been a disqualification, but there's no tape of the incident because of a stipulation in Superstar's contract that stated that his title matches cannot be filmed. But I have been told that Bob Roop, Lugar's manager, secretly taped the match.

(Continued on page 56)

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Salisbury, MD (Correspondent— Harry Burkett, Jr.): Hulkamania struck the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center as WWF World champion Hulk Hogan made his first appearance in almost two years by defending his title against Magnificent Muraco.

The excitement built as Hogan made his way into the ring to the tune of "Real American," while Muraco threw a tantrum inside the ring. After Mr. Fuji consoled

Magnificent Muraco experienced firsthand the pain of being hit with Mr. Fuji's cane in his title match with WWF World champion Hulk Hogan.

his charge, the action got underway.

After exchanging blows, Muraco threw Hogan out of the ring, where Fuji choked him with a chain. When Hogan finally got back into the ring, he delivered a series of closed fists, clotheslines, and flying elbowsmashes. Fuji

then jumped onto the ring apron, where Hogan grabbed hold of him. With Hogan distracted, Muraco tried to hit the Hulkster from behind, but Hogan hit him with Fuji's cane instead and rolled Muraco up for the victory.

In other bouts: Nikolai Volkoff defeated Cpl. Kirchner . . . Dory Funk & Jimmy Jack Funk defeated Lanny Poffo & George Wells . . . Hercules Hernandez beat Siva (Continued on page 54)

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Trade Plan.' The Mellinger Co., 6100 Variel Ave., Dept. S146CWoodland Hills, CA 91367 Q: "My question is for Ric Flair: Why do people always interfere in your matches when you are about to lose, like the time Ricky Morton had you pinned and then the other Horsemen came in and pulled him off you? You know he had you beat. If you ask me, I think you are afraid to lose against the real greatest wrestler in the world, Ricky Morton."—Kim Brockmyer, Goldsboro, NC

A: Predictably, Flair sidestepped the question. "You're obviously kidding. Either that or you're even stupider than most of Morton's fans, because I think that even they know he isn't the greatest



Ric Flair lifts Rick Morton by the knee and will escape this headlock. Flair feels he has proved his superiority over the Rock 'n' Roller.

wrestler in the world. Perhaps you haven't been paying attention, but that belt around my waist means that I'm the greatest wrestler in the world, bar none. You can't name one top contender that I haven't beaten, including Morton, and I've tak-

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en on all comers. They're all pretenders next to me."

Q: "My question is for Terry Gordy: Don't you ever get tired of Michael Hayes stealing your thunder? Michael is treated like the best Freebird even though you are obviously much better. I'm sure Michael deserves publicity, but you do, too. Honestly, Terry, do you ever get a little bit envious of Michael? I would, if I were in your position, even if Michael is a close friend."—Carlie Gill, Anchorage, AK

A: "There is absolutely no jealousy between The Freebirds," Gordy replied. "When I won the UWF title, Michael was in my corner and deserved as much praise as I did. When one of us wins, all of us win, and that's just the way it is. Also, I don't think Michael tries to 'steal my thunder,' as you put it. He gets his share of the praise and I get mine and believe me, there's plenty to go around."

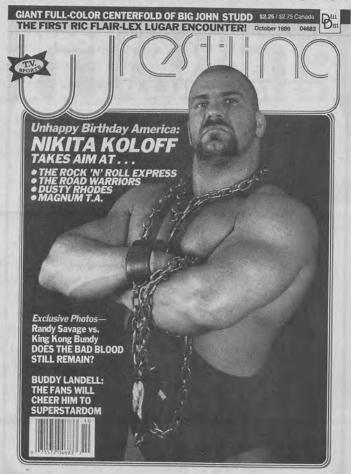
Q: "My question is for Kerry Von Erich: Now that you and Chris Adams are friends, would you ever consider teaching Chris the iron claw?"—Matt Dewberry, St. Petersburg, FL

A: "One thing I've learned from Chris is that a man has to learn to depend upon himself," replied Kerry. "Chris is one of the finest wrestlers in the sport and now he's World Class champion. So far, he's done very well with(Continued on page 52)



Michael Hayes and Terry Gordy come to the ring for a tag team match. While Michael is the most outspoken of The Freebirds and draws the most attention, Gordy says there is no jealousy among his teammates.

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Each Issue, The Wrestler will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to Chris Adams. Occasionally, a wrestler comes along who restores people's faith in the virtures of hard work, dedication, and courage. But who would have ever thought that Gentleman Chris Adams would be that person? By winning the World Class championship from Rick Rude, Adams proved that anything is possible. Just months ago, it appeared as if Adams had lost his sight forever and would never again wrestle, but Adams proved all the skeptics wrong. There's a message here for all of us: Never give up. Thank you, Chris Adams.



Thumbs Up to Baby Doll. While Miss Elizabeth caters to Randy Savage's every want and need, Baby Doll continues to show what it means to be a woman. Instead of standing by and allowing Dusty Rhodes to fight her battles, Baby Doll insisted on getting into the ring and taking on Jim Cornette. So far, she has embarrassed and beaten Cornette in every way possible and has made The Midnight Express' manager look like a coward. Baby Doll, by backing up her words, has been the true heroine of the 1986 Great American Bash.



Thumbs Up to Roddy Piper. Yet another wrestler has successfully made the transition from the ring to Hollywood. Yes, that was Rowdy Roddy you saw swaggering down Sunset Boulevard, checking out a spot for his footprints at Mann's Chinese Theatre. He appeared in the movie Bodyslam, which is scheduled to open this Christmas, and has received a number of other movie offers. Piper realizes that he cannot wrestle forever and has shown the foresight to plan for his future.



Thumbs Up to Jimmy Snuka. The thrilling, high-flying Polynesian has returned to the mainland and could be the shot in the arm the AWA so sorely needs. Snuka has always been regarded as a superbly talented wrestler of tremendous strength and aerial ability. His excitement factor alone should be enough to draw fans to arenas in great numbers. And now that he is back, Snuka has wasted no time in taking aim at Bockwinkel's AWA title, something the new champion should take heed of. Don't be surprised if in the coming months, Snuka is wearing the AWA belt around his waist.

Thumbs Down



Thumbs Down to Paul Orndorff. There was absolutely no reason for Orndorff's attack on Hulk Hogan. Throughout his association with Orndorff, Hulk Hogan proved to be an honorable partner and only wrestled for the good of both men. Obviously, Orndorff thought otherwise. It's impossible to say exactly when, or why, Orndorff got angry at Hogan, or when his apparent association with Bundy and Studd began. We do know, however, that a successful tag team is based on trust, and Orndorff broke that trust.



Thumbs Down to Ron Bass. We condemn new Florida champion Ron Bass for the unseemly way in which he attained the title in a match against Kendall Windham. With the referee unconscious, Bass enlisted the help of Ed "The Bull" Gantner, who cut the champion's head open on a ringpost. The ref recovered and, claiming that Windham was too severely injured to continue, awarded the belt to Bass. It is well known that Bass has held a grudge against the Windham family for many years. Obviously, he does not feel that he can handle matters by himself. This is not the type of man Florida fans want to see representing their state.



Thumbs Down to Stanley Blackburn. The Stan Hansen-Nick Bockwinkel title situation was a total fiasco and Blackburn, president of the AWA, must absorb the blame. When Hansen didn't appear for his match with Bockwinkel, Blackburn should have immediately held up the title. Instead, in an act that lacked both fairness and foresight, Blackburn gave the title to Bockwinkel. While we agree that Hansen deserved to be stripped of the belt, Bockwinkel just happened to be in the right place at the right time. Championships should never be won in this manner.



Thumbs Down to Bill Watts. Wrestling officials and executives have come under attack recently in this column. In October, NWA President Bob Geigel was the victim of a "Thumbs Down," and this month, Stanley Blackburn and UWF President Bill Watts feel the wrath of our poison pen. As far as Watts is concerned, we have only one question: What in the world is the president of a major wrestling federation doing in the ring, fighting against the men he governs? Has Watts popped his cork? Get out of the ring, Bill, and back behind your desk, where you belong.

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August 1979/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Patera, Stevens, Superstar.

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T.A.

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INTRODUCING BAM BAM BIGELOW

Bam Bam Bigelow does not have what one would consider traditional athletic roots. In fact, his background might be more intimidating than his 6'3" 390-pound body. The story you are about to read is amazing, but true

T 6'3", 390 POUNDS, the fear-some 19-year-old was physically suited for a number of jobs. But not the kind of man who could get into the lifestyle of a 9-to-5'er, the young man accepted the type of job that wouldn't make too many mothers proud: bounty hunter. His assignment: Travel to Mexico and track down a young woman who had been charged with murder, skipped bail, and fled the country.

When the young man arrived in Mexico, he followed a couple of leads, busted a few heads, and finally tracked down the accused murderer in a small town about 150 miles south of the U.S. border. The bounty hunter, however, had to be careful. The woman was armed and dangerous, and had already killed a man. Certainly, she wouldn't stop short of wasting a bounty hunter.

The entire matter was complicated further when it was discovered that the fugitive was the girlfriend of the local mayor. And down in Mexico, where justice is discretionary and outsiders just don't mess with the law, the girl appeared to be in safe hands.

The bounty hunter, however, had two things on his side: He was extraordinarily strong and not too smart. That second factor was the most important, because only a fool would have continued on with the mission. Rather than risk a payday, the bounty hunter finally figured out a way to (Continued on page 20)



Larry Sharpe has trained a potential major force in pro wrestling by the name of Bam Bam Bigelow. Bigelow, who has atypical agility for a man of his proportions, is a former bounty hunter with his sights set on Jerry Lawler.

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 18)

abduct the girl, and in the middle of the night he grabbed her and sped off toward the border.

Unfortunately for the bounty hunter, the mayor was supposed to rendezvous with the girl that night, and on his way to her room, he saw the bounty hunter driving off. Immediately, he summoned every police car under his command and quickly set up roadblocks along all the outlying roads.

But the brave bounty hunter crashed through two roadblocks. At the second roadblock, however, the police opened fire and struck the murderer in the head, killing her instantly. The bounty hunter drove five miles farther and then ditched the car and took off on foot. Finally, after spending two days as a fugitive, he was captured and put in jail.

Word of the bounty hunter's plight filtered back to the United States government and the situation was investigated. Six months later, officials from both governments arranged a deal and the bounty hunter was released from prison. The Mexican government warned, however, that if he ever returned, he would be arrested on sight. Naturally, this put an end to the young man's career as a bounty hunter.

But, as previously stated, a 6'3", 390-pound man is physically suited for a number of jobs.

Bounty hunter is one. Professional wrestler is another. Introducing: Bam Bam Bigelow.

So, as it went, the ex-bounty hunter was sitting in a Bowery bar when a friendly, half-drunk stranger told him that he looked like a professional wrestler. Bigelow laughed, but the stranger went on and told him all about a professional wrestling school located outside of Mount Laurel, New Jersey, and said that he should drop by. "Tell 'em Sam sent ya," said the stranger, who then got up from his bar stool and disappeared into the night.

When Bigelow walked into "The



Bigelow has made short work of preliminary wrestlers such as David Haskins as he has moved up the ranks in the Mid-Southern region. Men like Jerry Lawler should be just as easy for him, according to Sharpe.

Monster Factory" the following day, he didn't even have a chance to tell the man at the front desk that Sam had sent him. The clerk grabbed Bigelow and dragged him into the main office, where Larry Sharpe was sitting at a desk, talking on the telephone. When Sharpe looked at Bigelow, he dropped the phone, stood up, and said, "Don't say another word. I'm willing to train you for free if you'll let me manage you as a pro." Naturally, Bigelow was not in a position to reject such an offer.

"He was a natural," said Sharpe. "Really, he had everything I look for in a wrestler: size, strength, and that look in his eye that said that he was hungry. Then we tested him for speed and I couldn't believe my eyes. This huge guy ran the 100-yard dash in 11 seconds. I know some guys half his size who can't do that."

Bigelow developed quickly and before long could beat any man in the school. On August 23, 1985, Bigelow made his professional debut at New York's famous Studio 54, where he pinned four opponents in only 12 minutes. **

It's hard to miss Bam Bam Bigelow. After all, how many wrestlers have a tatoo of a fireball covering their bald head? And how many wrestlers carry around a can of red spray paint to use on their beaten opponents ("It's just to show that they're a bunch of rednecks." says Sharpe)?

Bigelow is amazingly versatile. His big move is a dive off the top ropes called the "nuclear splash." He also has a surprising array of aerial maneuvers for a man of his size and can devastate an opponent with a series of dropkicks. Currently, Bigelow is wrestling in the Mid-Southern area and feuding with Jerry Lawler ("Just the kind of guy Bam Bam would go after in his bounty hunting days," insists Sharpe, with no further explanation).

Lawler might be messing with the wrong person. Bam Bam Bigelow is a man who made a living risking his life and managed to take on an entire police force. After spending six months in jail, he learned how to deal with the scum of the earth.

Wrestling is Bam Bam Bigelow's idea of a desk job. □

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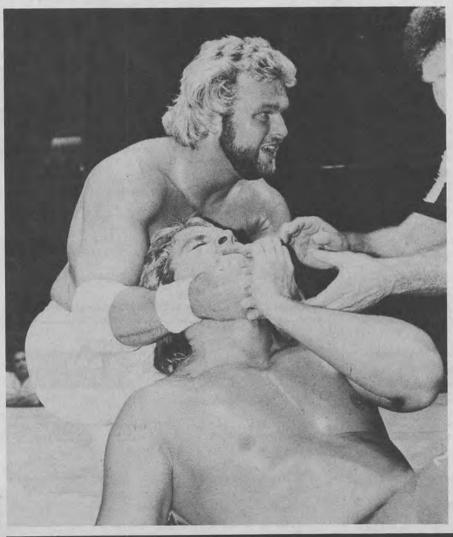
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Each month,
The Wrestler will
present a "Question and
Answer" forum with an important
figure in the wrestling world. It is your
chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars
as they answer the questions uppermost in
the fans' minds



- Q: At this point in time, Eddie, it appears as if starting a feud with Bill Watts was the worst move you've ever made. Already, you have lost two-thirds of your stable, and if past performances are any indication, Sting should be gone before long. Do you have any second thoughts about incurring the wrath of the UWF president?
- A: Before we go any further, let's get a few things straightened out. Korchenko and Rock left the area only because they were frustrated over the situation with Watts. When Watts entered the ring, he threw out any objectivity he had left. How the heck can my men expect to be fairly treated and get any title shots when the president is against us? You're right. Sting will be gone before long, and so will the rest of the wrestlers in the UWF, unless Watts gets out of the ring and back into the office where he belongs.
- Q: Are you implying that there's a possible conflict of interests at work here?

Eddie Gilbert shows the referee that his chinlock against Terry Taylor is legally applied (left). "Who's number one?" asks Eddie Gilbert (opposite right). He really doesn't want to know the fans' response!



EDDIE GILBERT

THE PAST FEW months have not been easy for Eddie Gilbert. The controversial manager of The Blade Runners and Kortsia Korchenko is now left with only one wrestler in his stable. Korchenko recently returned to the Soviet Union and Rock of The Blade Runners left the UWF area. At this point, only Sting has remained at Gilbert's side.

In reality, Gilbert bears sole reponsiblity for his current state of affairs. When Gilbert publicly embarrassed Bill Watts on television, the UWF President came out of retirement and began a personal crusade. Not surprisingly, Watts takes sole responsibility for the departure of Rock and Korchenko and now is working on Sting and Gilbert.

Naturally, Gilbert does not see things the same way. He claims that Korchenko and Rock left the area because they feared unfair treatment by Watts and would be denied title shots. So, with Korchenko and Rock gone, Gilbert has enlisted The Freebirds to help in his battle against Watts. Recently, in a match between Gilbert and Watts, The Freebirds entered the ring and battered the president.

There's also a family angle to this messy situation. Tommy Gilbert, the number one referee in the area, told Watts that he wanted to resign because of Eddie's behavior. Watts refused to accept the resignation, and told Tommy that he was going to teach Eddie a lesson. To this, Tommy responded, "Maybe you can whip some sense into my son 'cause I can't do it anymore."

In this question and answer session with Assistant Editor Dave Rosenbaum, Gilbert discusses his current state of affairs and elaborates on his relationship with his father. He also talks about his plans for taking on new wrestlers.



- A: I'm not implying anything. I'm telling you flat out that it's impossible for the president of the UWF to do his job and feud with the wrestlers at the same time. Why do you think The Freebirds ran into the ring that night and attacked Watts? Look at the situation. Watts had just signed The Freebirds to a \$1 million contract and still couldn't win their respect. Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts knew what was going on, and look at Terry. He's the UWF champion, so he had the most to lose, but he realized that Watts wasn't doing his job.
- Q: But really, Watts didn't have any choice in the matter. I mean, you challenged him, so what did you want him to do?
- A: Actually, I was testing him. I knew that he was a former wrestler and that if challenged, he'd act like a wrestler, not an official. You'll notice that he didn't even try to fine or suspend me, which would have been the natural thing for a president to do. Look at [NWA president Bob] Giegel. When Magnum T.A. hit him, Geigel took his U.S. title away. He didn't challenge him to a match. Really, this shows what kind of president Bill Watts really is.

(Continued)



Gilbert makes life a little more difficult for Koko B. Ware. UWF President Bill Watts wants to make life a little easier for everyone in the area by getting rid of "Hot Stuff Inc."

- Q: So you're saying that Watts has UWF?
- A: Exactly.
- Q: Then what do you suggest?
- A: Bill Watts should either resign as president and wrestle full-time, or stop wrestling and stick to his official duties. One or the other, but not both.
- O: Speaking of resigning, your father, Tommy Gilbert, wanted to quit his job as referee in the UWF, but Watts wouldn't let him. Anyway, Tommy's reason for resigning was that he couldn't stand your behavior. What was your reaction when you heard that your father wanted

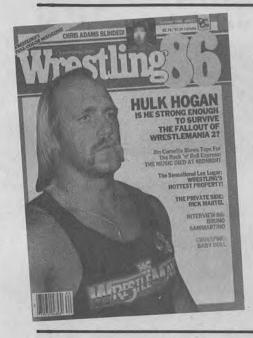
- to resign?
- lost control of the situation in the A: My father is old enough to make his own decisions.
 - O: That's all?
 - A: What else is there? Listen, my father isn't responsible for my behavior and I don't have to worry about him getting through to me. I respect my father very much, but I'm not going to change the way I act on his say so.
 - O: So if he had resigned, you wouldn't have cared?
 - A: Of course I would have cared, but there's nothing I could have done about it.
 - Q: At this point, do you plan on recruiting any new wrestlers?

- A: That would be ridiculous right now with Watts acting like he is. Let me tell you this. Watts might be getting his jollies jumping into the ring all the time, but the quality of wrestling in this area will suffer if I'm unable to reach my full potential as a manager. Sooner or later, Watts will pay the piper.
- Q: There have been some rumors about you taking The Fabulous Freebirds under your wing, which would seem to be unlikely. After all, The Freebirds have never had a manager before and usually handle themselves. Have you thought about this?

(Continued on page 50)

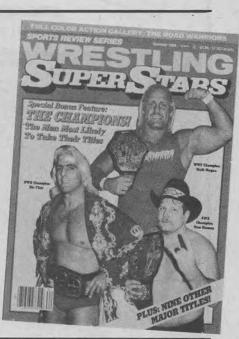
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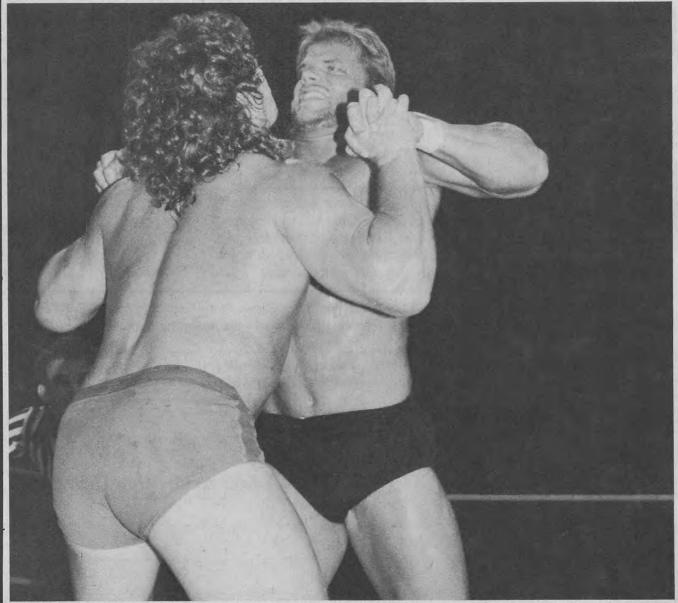
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THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES



LEX LUGAR

THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Once about every five years a wrestler comes upon the scene who has the physical tools of a Lex Lugar. Lugar can easily overpower just about any opponent (Jesse Barr, above), a fact that is agreed upon by all of our "X-Ray" panelists. If he relies solely on that strength, he will be one of the best around. If he is able to considerably advance his wrestling skills, however, he has an excellent chance to become one of the all-time greats.



BRUNO SAMMARTINO

"Never has the word of the mouth about one wrestler been so doggone strong. Then when I saw Lugar wrestle, I understood what the great fuss was all about. He is as impressive looking as anyone I have ever seen. And Hiro Matsuda has turned him into a formidable wrestler. I understand he is hanging out with the Windham boys, who will have a positive mental influence on him. I can see him as a major champion in a very short amount of time."

Bruno Sammartino is known as wrestling's "Living Legend." He is the most popular wrestler to ever hold the WWF title.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"Lugar? The best! The damn best. Most vicious, most ferocious, most powerful and brutal man I ever saw for his age. Worse than me even, well almost worse than me. But ever since he dumped Matsuda and started hanging around those pansy Windham fellows, I fear for his career. Nothing can ruin a man surer or faster than the cheers of the fans. They make you soft. If Lugar gets back to his old ways, he's a champion. Bank on it."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



BOB ROOP

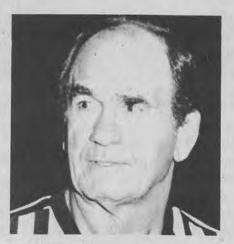
"It's ironic that the first wrestler I get to 'X-Ray' is my own man, Lex Lugar. I'm sure Lex's strengths will be discussed by the other panelists, so let me discuss his biggest weakness: Lex has a tendency to think out his moves too much. Rather than act on instinct, he will often hesitate before acting. Whether or not he can correct that flaw, I don't know. Some wrestlers acquire that instinct; some don't. He's going to be great no matter what. It's just a question of how great."

Bob Roop, a member of the 1968 U.S. Olympic team and an AAU All-America from 1966-1969, manages Lex Lugar.



BUDDY ROGERS

"I'm tempted to say that Lugar is the only man I've ever seen who can get by on strength alone. Should he work on his scientific skills, he will be unbeatable and unstoppable. What's most noteworthy is his determination and resolve. Nothing can stop him. He will allow nothing to stop him. With his mind and body, I fear for the future of his opponents."



LOU THESZ

"Yes Lugar is everything everyone is saying about him—quick, strong, powerful, strong-willed—but he still is shortchanged scientifically. The right skills can always neutralize great strength. How do you think I was so successful? Lugar will never capture a world championship until he develops a repertoire of holds and counterholds. Survival in this business is to the strongest and smartest."



VERNE GAGNE

"Ooh, is this kid tough. He's still green, though. I watched him take lumps from an experienced preliminary wrestler who managed to hurt him before Lugar's strength overcame him. But I don't think a man possessing the kind of body Lugar has and his mental toughness can be denied for long. He just has too many strong suits. Once he develops skills he will be very difficult to stop. It will be a pleasure to watch him develop."

Buddy Rogers is the only man to hold both the NWA World title and the WWF title. Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.

Verne Gagne held the AWA World title a record 11 times. He was voted "Best Scientific Wrestler" of the last 25 years by the wrestling media.

From time to time, The Wrestler will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

JIM GARVIN

THE REFRAIN THAT has accented Jim Garvin's career is the phrase: "It's not my fault!"

How can anything be his fault? Why, he has no faults. Just ask him.

Garvin's career goes back to the early '70s when, in what will come as a surprise to many fans, Garvin began his pro activities as a manager! In 1974 he led his brothers Ronnie and Terry to the Georgia tag team belts, then left them to pursue a solo career.

His career began to bloom in Florida, where he wrestled under the tute-lage of Dusty Rhodes and became a fan favorite. He earned several title matches against then-NWA World champion Harley Race, and teamed regularly with Mike Graham.

Garvin earned the hatred of the fans when he signed a big-money contract to wrestle for J.J. Dillon in Florida. Teaming with John Studd, Garvin captured the Global tag team title, and held two belts simultaneously when he captured the Southern heavyweight title from Sweet Brown Sugar.

As a gift for his success, Dillon hired a valet for Garvin by the name of Precious, though it was not the Precious who valets for him today. Arguably one of the most beautiful women to ever grace a wrestling ring, the original Precious seemed to be a big distraction, and Garvin lost the Southern belt to Dusty Rhodes!

With a new valet—Sunshine (yes, the same Sunshine who currently manages and advises wrestlers in the World



Jim Garvin (center) started his career in the early 1970s as the manager of his brothers, Terry (left) and Ronnie (right). Jim led his brothers to the Georgia tag team title in 1974.

Class area)—Garvin went on to Texas, feuded with the Von Erichs, and solidified his friendship with The Fabulous Freebirds.

It was in Texas that Garvin hired a second valet, the woman we know to-day as Precious. Surely a man of Garvin's experience should have known that the two valets would never get along. They didn't. And, eventually, a major feud erupted between Garvin and Chris Adams, with Precious and Sunshine their respective valets.

From Texas, Garvin went to the AWA where he joined forces with Steve Regal to dethrone The Road Warriors for the AWA World tag team belts. After a reign that lasted from September 1985 through January 1986, Garvin and Regal lost the belts to Scott Hall and Curt Hennig, then

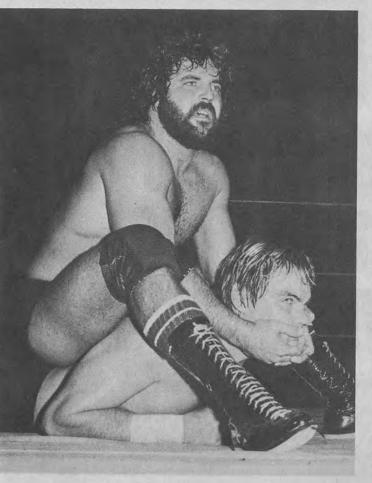
split up to pursue singles matches.

Garvin's path brought him out of the AWA and into the World Championship area, where he is currently feuding with Wahoo McDaniel in a series of Indian strap matches during the Great American Bash series of cards.

Steve Regal is also in the World Championship area, and it will be interesting to see if the two renew their successful team. Garvin's brother Ronnie also wrestles in that area—a fan favorite to Jim's rulebreaker tendancies. Will there be a brother vs. brother feud in the near future? Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, The Wrestler salutes Jim Garvin with this brief pictorial look at some of his most memorable career highlights.

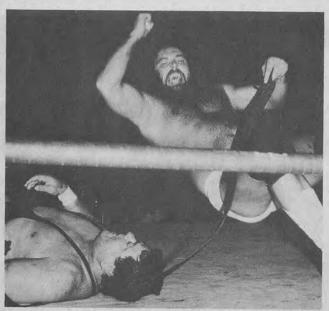






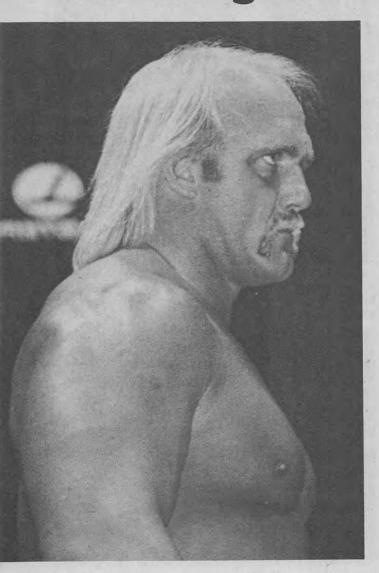
Garvin, who could not handle two jealous valets, grabs Sunshine by the hair and sets her up for an attack by Precious (left). Garvin's feud with Chris Adams pitted the valets against one another (above).

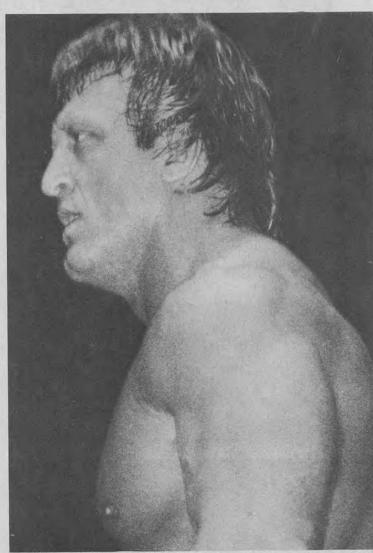




Gorgeous Jim's travels have brought him to Florida, where he feuded with Barry Windham (left); the AWA, where he challenged Rick Martel (top); and presently the World Championship area, where he has battled Wahoo McDaniel (above).

Hulk Hogan vs. Paul Orndorff:





THE MISUNDERSTANDING THAT TURNED INTO A BLOODY VENDETTA!

Paul Orndorff is the latest in a long line of casualties done in by the WWF's infatuation with Hulk Hogan. This time they may have picked on the wrong man

LAME IT ON inconvenience. Blame it on the incompatibility of great men. Blame it on Mars rising in Jupiter's shadow or on the nuclear fallout from Chernobyl, but don't blame the surging feud between Hulk Hogan and Paul Orndorff on the Phone Call

Everyone in the know has traced the rapid disintegration of the Orndorff-Hogan friendship to the now infamous Phone Call. The call-placed by Orndorff to Hogan at the gym-was refused



by the WWF champ (who claimed he was too busy working out to be disturbed) and is being hailed as the cataclysmic event, the watershed, when the ruination of one of wrestling's greatest alliances began.

The grist mill has it that Orndorff was so shamed by the nationally televised rebuke that he had no choice but to retaliate weeks later by piledriving Hogan after their match against King Kong Bundy and Big John Studd. The truth, bitter to those who have watched the WWF's two favorite giants battle evil these past 18 months, is that the Hogan-Orndorff friendship, formed in the tumultuous wake of WrestleMania 1, was doomed from the start.



Orndorff and Hogan do battle at Madison Square Garden prior to WrestleMania 1 in March 1985. (above). Hogan's friendship with Orndorff officially began at the Nassau Coliseum on Long Island one month after WrestleMania 1 (left). Orndorff knows he can no longer receive a lift from the WWF fans (below).



The Phone Call merely infected an already gaping wound. Had it never occurred, there would have been some other, equally innocuous event to trigger the feud.

The September 1985 issue of Sports Review Wrestling posed to readers the question: "Can Hulk Hogan Trust Paul Orndorff?" After months of obsessive feuding between Roddy Piper, Bob Orton. Orndorff and Hogan, Mr. T, and Jimmy Snuka, WrestleMania 1's improbable finish left Piper and Orton abandoning Orndorff while Hogan and Mr. T looked on

sympathetically.

It was a friendship borne of momentum. In coming days, Piper would blame Orndorff for the embarrassing defeat, calling him "Mr. Blunderful" before a nationwide audience. The two men came to blows during a live segment of "Piper's Pit," and when Orton joined the fracas, Hogan and Mr. T rushed to Orndorff's rescue. The screaming crowd galvanized the friendship between Orndorff and Hogan, forcing their hands together in uneasy bond-

Photos by Buddy Myers

E-XL

THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF MIKE VON ERICH:

Nine months ago, he lay in a hospital room on the brink of death.

Doctors said it was hopeless. Last rites had already been administered.

But on the Fourth of July, Mike Von Erich completed his miraculous recovery from toxic shock syndrome and returned to the wrestling ring



Reunion at the Reunion: It was a touching scene in Dallas when Mike Von Erich was introduced to the fans after a nine-month layoff. Kevin, Mike, and Lance Von Erich are the World Class six-man tag team champions (above). Mike delivers a flying elbowdrop against Butch Reed (opposite page).

N THE MORNING of July 4, 1986, Mike Von Erich got out of bed at 8 o'clock, just like any other day, quickly showered and got dressed, then made the short drive across town to have breakfast with the rest of his family. When he arrived, his mother Doris and father Fritz were already at the table, along with brothers Kerry, Chris, and Kevin, and cousin Lance.

This was a special day in the Von Erich household. It was the first time that they had all been together since Kerry returned from the hospital after his near-fatal motorcycle accident on June 4. And that evening, in Reunion Arena, Mike would wrestle for the first time since he was felled by toxic shock syndrome last October.

After the entire family exchanged

greetings, Mike sat down and Fritz said grace. Certainly, despite the great tragedies that had befallen them, the Von Erich family has retained its faith. Almost 25 years ago, brother Jack died when he accidentally electrocuted himself, and in 1984, David was found dead of acute enteritis in his hotel room in Japan. But the Von Erichs have their tender mercies to be thankful for. Mike could well have died from toxic shock syndrome and Kerry was, indeed, lucky to be alive.

As breakfast was served, the discussion turned to the events of that evening. This was to be the first time that Kevin, Lance, and Mike were wrestling together, and ironically they were defending the World Class six-man tag team championship against Matt Borne, Buzz Sawyer, and Butch Reed.

At this point it no longer mattered that only one of the three of them had been involved in the match in which Lance, Kerry, and Steve Simpson had won the title from The Freebirds. (Kevin, though injured and substituted for by Steve Simpson, was still given a share of the championship; Mike had replaced Kerry after the motorcycle accident).

"I think we'll be okay," said Mike, "but we'll have to tag out quickly. I haven't wrestled in ages and Kevin still isn't one hundred percent, so Lance might have to carry most of the load."

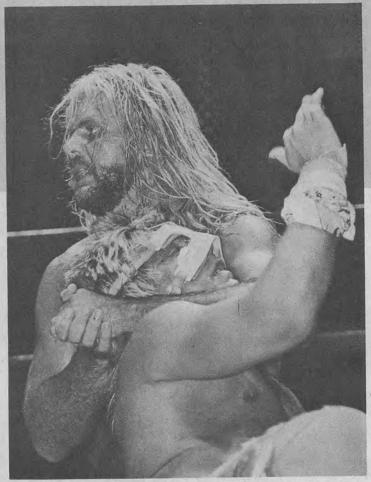
"That's fine with me, Mike," said Lance, "as long as the doctors say you're ready to wrestle. Remember, if you're not feeling up to it, I don't want you to play hero."

(Continued on page 62)

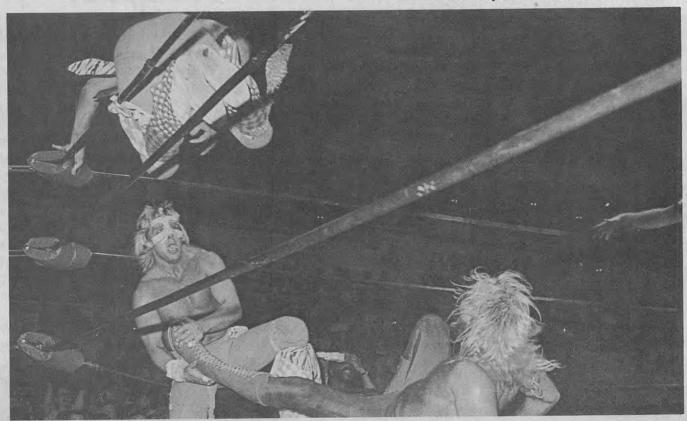
THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

VS. THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS!

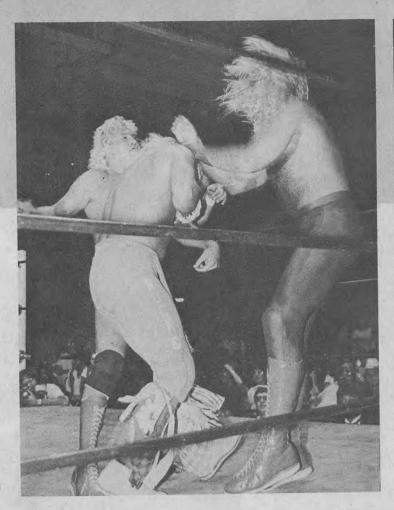
It was a rare matchup between top tag teams from separate areas, but when The Rock 'n' Roll Express stepped into the ring with The Fabulous Freebirds, it looked as though they had been enemies all their lives



Photos by Alice Marie Nelson & Peter Rene

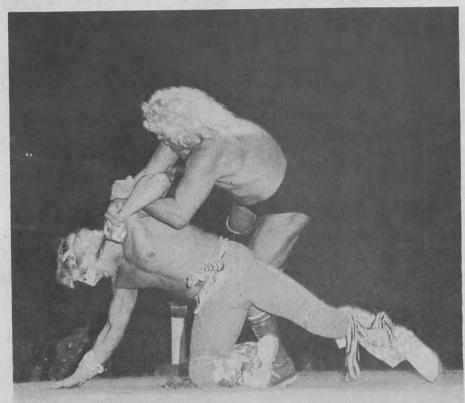


Morton & Gibson Take A Trip To Badstreet U.S.A.





Buddy Roberts and Michael Hayes combine their efforts against Rick Morton (left). Morton, wearing a mask to protect his broken nose, snapmares Roberts (above). Rick tries to flip Roberts, attempting to loosen Buddy's armlock (below). Hayes' headlock immbolizes Morton (opposite top). Gibson vaults over the rope and crushes Hayes' leg, which is held in place by Morton (opposite bottom).



A PPROPRIATE MUSIC. THE Fabulous Thunderbirds booming loud over a portable stereo that would have been the envy of any city kid.

Ain't that tuff enough . . .

The music box was the property of Michael Hayes, chief beak of The Fabulous Freebirds, and one who fancies himself as something of a crooner in the world of heavy metal rock 'n' roll. On this occasion, Hayes' voice would have overshadowed the construction going on nearby in downtown Houston, although the clang of jackhammers and bulldozers would not have sounded nearly as bad. Perhaps it was the Jack Daniels.

As Bob Dylan sang recently, We weren't on the wrong side/We were the wrong side. And so it is with these Freebirds. Hayes belting out choruses in between liver-shivering gulps of whiskey. Buddy Roberts answering the musical question by smashing both

Should Rick Morton Leave The Rock 'n' Roll Express?

Back in the September 1986 edition of The Wrestler, a ballot was run giving fans the opportunity to answer the question posed above. Three possible answers were provided along with additional space for comments.

ANSWER #1: Yes, Rick Morton should devote his entire career to wrestling solo.

ANSWER #2: Morton and Gibson should split their time between singles and tag team matches.

ANSWER #3: The Rock 'n' Roll Express should wrestle exclusively tag team matches.

By far, the greatest percentage of you voted with choice number two. Indeed, fully 78 percent of you felt that by splitting their time between singles and tag team matches, Morton and Gibson would in fact become better wrestlers for it. The following response, from Ann Callinder of Greensboro, North Carolina, was typical of the comments included with these votes:

Let's face it: The Rock 'n' Roll Express are the greatest tag team in the history of the sport. But they are also great singles wrestlers, as Rick is proving in his challenges to Ric Flair. Flair's done everything possible to eliminate Rick, and it hasn't worked. Rick is stronger than ever, and more determined than ever to defeat Flair. There have been other examples in wrestling history of one man holding a major singles and tag team title simultaneously. If anyone can hold the NWA World belt and World tag team belts, it's certainly not The Four Horsemen-it's the Rock 'n' Roll Express!

The second largest number of votes, 13 percent, went for the third choice and said that The Rock 'n' Roll Express should wrestle exclusively tag team matches. The first choice, that Rick Morton should wrestle exclusively singles matches, received eight percent of the vote. One percent of the ballots snidely suggested that The Rock 'n' Roll Express should both quit the sport forever.



Gibson flips Hayes, whose left arm was around his throat (above). Gibson proves that these Freebirds can get off the ground, but they can't fly (below)! Roberts shouts out in agony as Roberts twists his leg (opposite page).

fists hard into his own temple.

the day. While The Freebirds enhanced room, Ricky Morton and Robert Gibson dropped a Bruce Springsteen tape-that Bruce Springsteen tapeinto a casette deck and began some light calisthentics.

Got in a little hometown jam . . .

Is it possible not to look silly doing leg splits in a bandana and a face mask? If you're Ricky Morton and you count your fans with the same calculator Springsteen does, then looking silly is not in your repertoire. As Morton stretched his thighs, Gibson turned the music down and spoke to the reporters who have become as much a fixture around The Rock 'n' Roll Express as the furniture in the dressing room.

"This is a good match for us," he said. "It's good to get away from The

We've been wrestling them so much Music, rock music was the order of we've forgotten there are other teams in the country. And especially since their legends in their own dressing Ricky and I have doing so many singles matches lately, it'll do us good to get in as a team and mix it up with The Freebirds."

> Back in Birdland, Michael Hayes spoke over the music about the impending match. "I HATE THOSE CANDY-ASSED PUKE BALLS!" he screeched. Hayes belched and tossed a full beer can at the music box, silencing it. There are those who see similarities between The Freebirds and The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Those people should undergo comprehensive medical examinations.

"Morton, Gibson, the Von Erichs-I hate all of those good-lookin' fairy boys," Hayes raged. "The promoters love 'em 'cause their queer boy looks attract all the young girls and make 'em money. So they instruct the refer-Midnight Express and the Koloffs. ees to look the other way when they





break the rules. But let me or one of the boys mess around. Man, they say disqualification so fast, you'd think it was a two letter word.

"Tonight me and Buddy are each gonna take one of those little creeps and twist them till their components burst. No more rock 'n' roll! The Freebirds are the original rock 'n' rollers! We play the music, man. We are the music! Those guys are refugees from a shopping mall. They got about as much integrity as one of the Von Erichs. I'd rather trust an eel than one of those suckers."

Tonight Terry "Bamm-Bamm" Gordy would not be joining his colleagues, as he was scheduled to defend his UWF title against Steve Williams. He appeared disappointed in missing out on the festivities.

"They won't even let me at ringside," Gordy lamented. "They say I might interfere." The accusation caused Gordy's neanderthal countenance to light up, and soon the three Freebirds were laughing madly, like caged lunatics in an asylum.

The match held few surprises, though one of them was the tentative pace set early by The Rock 'n' Roll Express, to whom slow has historically meant five instead of 15 turns faster than anyone else. Morton was stunned early by a Roberts' forearm and appeared in trouble when he tagged off

to his teammate.

Gibson leveled Roberts with a stunning dropkick and then performed an encore for Hayes' benefit. With both Freebirds out of the ring, the crowd rose to its feet and gave Gibson a standing ovation. Hayes and Roberts bristled with embarrassment and conferred madly in the corner. With their feathers plucked, the two resorted to the tactics that made them infamous.

Hayes pulled Morton's hair and dragged him into the corner. There the two Freebirds administered the first of several double-teams they would apply to Gibson and Morton, tactics that eventually cost them the match.

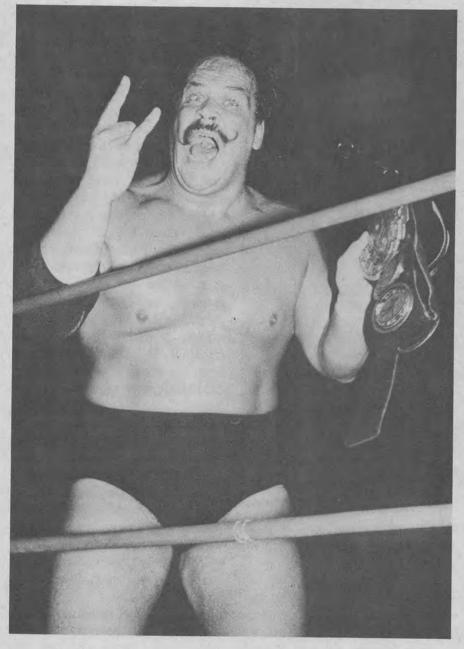
The Rock 'n' Roll Express rallied, weakening Hayes with a drop-kicking assault. Morton had Hayes' arms pinioned to the mat when Roberts rushed in and kicked him off. Then Hayes and Roberts grabbed Morton by the facemask and hurled him over the top rope, an act for which they were promptly disqualified. Although they protested vehemently, the decision remained. Afterward, in their dressing room, the 'Birds chirped a familiar refrain. "Once again we wuz robbed," cried Hayes, drowning his sorrows in a bottle of champagne, vintage 1985. "From now on we take only no-disqualification matches. It's the only way we'll ever get a fair shake."

Since no-DQ matches are usually reserved for championship matches, it's doubtful The Freebirds will be able to request such a clause. Their lifestyles demand a certain income that can only be obtained by wrestling often and successfully, so they are in no position to force the issue.

And, as Ricky Morton warned after the match, "if those guys maintain their disregard for the rules, then some team is gonna end their careers. We'll only be too happy to put a stop to their disgusting ignorance and disrespect. The fans deserve better for their time and money then to see those slobbering drunken idiots make fools of themselves.

"Oh, yeah. Let us at them. Robby and I will be only too happy to end their careers."

Can Blackjack Mulligan WINDHAM-BUSTER





Bass manhandles Kendall Windham, dragging the youngster across the ring by his hair and throwing him through the ring ropes (above). The Cowboy presses Barry Windham's face into the ring barrier with his rope (below).



BLACKJACK MULLIGAN shook himself out of a deep sleep and staggered down the staircase of his Sweetwater, Texas, home. After partying until four o'clock the night before, Mulligan was in no mood for early morning disturbances, even if it was almost two in the afternoon.

"Whaddya want?" Mulligan

barked as he opened the door, almost scaring away the mailman that stood before him. Perhaps the post office's motto should read, "Neither rain, nor sleet, nor gloom of Blackjack Mulligan . . ." but, fortunately, postmen usually only have to deal with vicious Dobermans and loose children, not groggy professional wrestlers.

Save His Sons From Ron Bass' master plan to destroy RON BASS that to destroy the Windham family has already resulted in an injury to Barry and

resulted in an injury to Barry and

Kendall's loss of the Florida title. His sons threatened, Blackjack Mulligan may be forced to enter the picture and challenge Bass, one on one

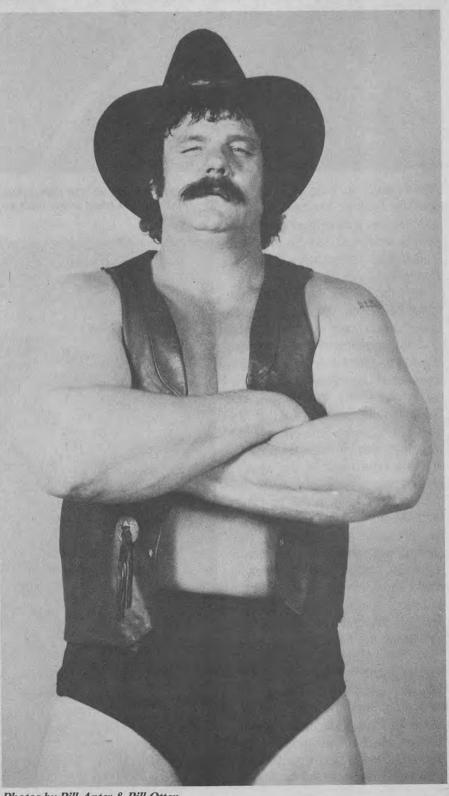


Bass grabs Kendall behind the neck and bloodies his face with a series of right hands. How long can Blackjack Mulligan bear to watch his sons take such batterings?

"Special delivery, sir," the mailman said meekly. "Just need your signature right here and I'll be on my way."

Mulligan signed for the package, mumbled a few words in the mailman's direction, and slammed the door shut. He had thoughts of just depositing the package in the garbage, but his sixth sense said to open it up. Inside was a note attached to a video tape.

"Just finished wiping out another of your sickly sons," it read. "I know that you're a pretty tough guy, so I was wondering how you could have reproduced such wimps. I'm sure that Kendall didn't have the guts to tell you he lost the



Photos by Bill Apter & Bill Otten



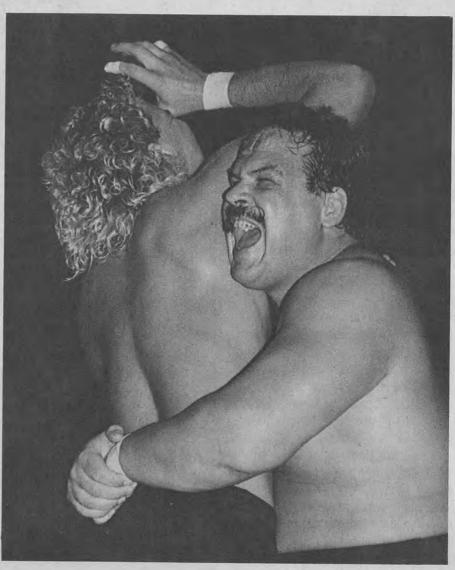
Florida belt, so I figured I'd send you the tape of the match. Enjoy watching your own flesh and blood getting beaten to pieces, and have a pleasant afternoon. Sincerely, Ron Bass."

Ah, the video tape. Just the night before on television, Gordon Solie had planned to show a replay of Bass' title match with Kendall Windham. Blackjack Mulligan was unaware of the outcome, and wanted to watch his son wrestle, but Solie abruptly announced that the tape was missing. Sure enough, the tape was now in Mulligan's hands and the note revealed the identity of the culprit.

Blackjack Mulligan was no longer tired. As he removed the tape from its protective casing, his face swelled with anger and his hands shook in anticipation of what it would show. He sat down to watch and proceeded to view a nightmare: Kendall Windham, his youngest son, losing the Florida title to Bass.

At first, Mulligan thought that Bass had sent the wrong tape. Kendall was completely in control of the match from the start and appeared to have Bass at his mercy. Mulligan watched with pride as the oversized Bass was outsmarted and outwrestled by his much smaller

Bass slams his cowbell into Barry's face (above) and squeezes the air out of Kendall (below). Formerly a friend of the Windham family, Bass is obsessed with their elimination from the sport.



opponent.

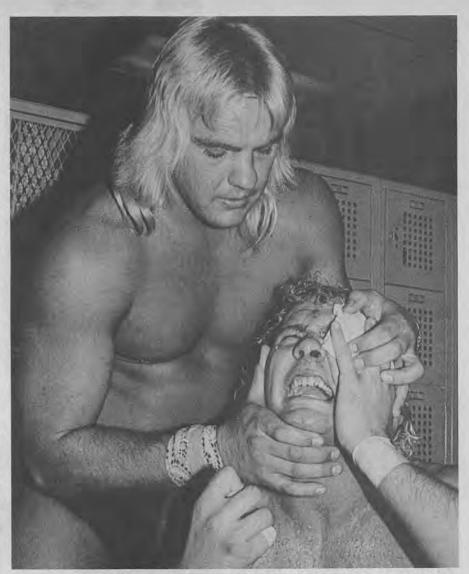
But just as Kendall prepared to put the finishing touches on his latest title defense, Bass deftly avoided a flying bodyblock. A careless maneuver, Mulligan thought, but carelessness is in Kendall's blood. Instead of connecting with Bass, Windham knocked the referee unconscious and then fell out of the ring.

Mulligan prepared himself for the worst. He sat motionless and watched as Ed "The Bull" Gantner ran out of the dressing room, picked up Kendall, and rammed his head into the outer ringpost. A large gash was opened over Windham's left eye and blood began to pour off his face. Blackjack Mulligan had been in similar situations before, but to watch it happen to his son was a different story.

Gantner continued to work on Windham's left eye, then tossed him back into the ring, where Bass finished off the job. Eventually, the referee recovered and stopped the match, fearing that Windham's left eye would be damaged permanently. Bass was given the belt and Kendall staggered off to the dressing room.

Blackjack Mulligan switched off his television and sat slumped in his chair, unable to speak. The horror was etched plainly on his face. He thought about phoning Kendall but had second thoughts. His son had been humiliated enough, and obviously was not ready to face his father. Windham pride runs deep, and Bass was threatening to destroy the entire family.

Wasn't it only months ago that Ron Bass returned to the Florida area and injured Mulligan's older son, Barry? Actually, Barry's knee had been badly injured by Sir Oliver Humpderink's Shock Troops, but a few days later, Bass added to the injury. Windham missed a week of action and has only recently returned to the ring. It was apparent, however, that the Bass-Barry Windham rivalry of a few years ago had



Barry tries to stop the flow of blood from his brother's eye until the doctor can arrive on the scene. Seeing photos like this could encourage Blackjack Mulligan to return to Florida from Texas.

been renewed.

That rivalry peaked when Bass humiliated Windham by placing a saddle on his back and rode him around the ring. Soon after that incident, Bass left Florida for the Mid-Atlantic area, but he recently returned, vowing to win every major title. He won the Bahamas title from Tyree Pride, but held it for only a few weeks. Now, he has the Florida belt and is taking dead aim at Lex Lugar's Southern title.

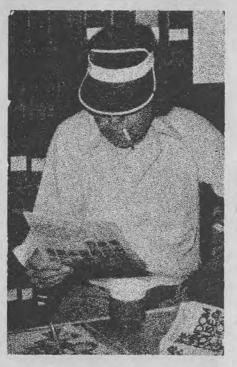
Try as he might, however, Bass cannot take his mind off the Windhams. For reasons only he knows, Bass has a natural hatred for the family and is dead set on destroying every member. Can there be any doubt that Kendall and Barry must always look over their shoul-

ders as long as Bass is in the area? And can there be any doubt that only Blackjack Mulligan can stop Ron Bass, Windham-buster?

"He's getting me angry," said Mulligan in an exclusive telephone conversation with *The Wrestler*. "I'm perfectly willing to let my sons fend for themselves, but this Bass doesn't exactly work on his own. If I have to, I'll defend my sons to the hilt. So far, he's only taken us on one at a time, but when us Windhams get together, there's nobody who can stop us. He's running out of chances."

The Windhams, however, are running out of healthy wrestlers, and Blackjack Mulligan might be forced to meet Ron Bass on his own, one on one.

MATT BROCK'S



LOOKING BACK

MARCH 1964

COWBOY BILL WATTS vs. LUKE GRAHAM

It DIDN'T SURPRISE me to hear that Bill Watts had returned to the ring down in the UWF and was fighting a one-man battle againt Eddie Gilbert and friends. Having known Watts for the better part of 25 years, very little the man ever did has surprised me. Watts always acted on impulse and, as UWF president, it probably hasn't occurred to him that he shouldn't be wrestling those he presides over.

Then again, Watts is a real man in a real man's sense. I'd be willing to bet my '56 Olivetti that he doesn't have a pair of white loafers in his entire wardrobe and has never worn those knee-length Hawaiian bathing suits that individuals who call themselves men parade around in. When you walked into a bar, or anywhere, with Bill Watts, you were proud to be with him.

Watts never fooled around with anybody and always shot straight from the hip. Whoever made him president of the UWF should have realized that Watts wasn't going to deal with disciplinary matters by sit-



Watts tries to get Graham out of the corner so he can have some room to operate. This match was important to both men as they were both trying to establish themselves apart from their tag team partners.

ting behind a desk. The real Bill Watts, the Watts I've always known, doles out fines and suspensions with an iron fist, not pen and paper.

That's why I also wasn't surprised to learn that Gilbert's stable was rapidly disappearing, thanks to Watts. From the news I've gathered, Rock of the Blade Runners has left the area and Kortsia Korchenko, another of those Russian behemoths, fled back to Siberia. Now, Rock is the only wrestler left under Gilbert's command and, apparently, The Freebirds have also joined the war against Watts. This could be the biggest mistake they've ever made.

From what I can tell, Watts has no intention of going after any titles. One of my sources down in Houston reports that Watts' championship days are long over and that as soon as the Gilbert incident is settled, he'll retire his wrestling tights for the upteenth time. I'm sure, however, that Watts is not nearly the athlete he used to be and it's a shame that the young fans down in the UWF area couldn't have seen him in his heyday.

Back in 1964, Watts and Bruno Sammartino formed a tag team that consistently packed Madison Square Garden and other arenas around the country. That alliance turned into a feud when Sammartino accidentally dropkicked his partner and Watts refused to forgive him. The Cowboy then became one of the most hated rulebreakers in the land.





Graham boxes Watts' ears, forcing the Cowboy to release his bearhug (above). Watts goes way up to deliver an elbowsmash (below).





By this time, Watts is in complete control. After doubling Graham over with another elbow (above left), Watts straightens him right up with an extraordinary kneelift (above right).

While a fan favorite, Watts wrestled "Crazy" Luke Graham in one of the finest matches I ever witnessed at the old Madison Square Garden. I'll never forget that night. The date was March 11, 1964. The crowd was almost 19,000, the largest of the year. Five thousand fans were turned away, and traffic on 8th Avenue was held up for nearly two hours. That's the way it used to be at the Garden, before the WWF became the circus it is today.

The main event saw Sammartino stop Dr. Jerry Graham in 8:23, but the Watts-Crazy Luke match intrigued me for a number of reasons. Watts always played second fiddle in his partnership with Sammartino and Luke always lived in the shadow of his older brother. It was interesting that they were on the same card with Bruno vs. Jerry and this gave the two "secondstringers" a chance to prove their worth. Also, I realized that both men were supremely talented and the match figured to be as exciting as the main event.

Graham proved to be a formidable opponent, as expected, but Watts took control with a bearhug midway through the match and never lost his edge. After punishing Graham for the better part of the match, Watts scored the pin at 12:52. I remember the look in Watts' eyes after his victory was made official. He seemed to be staring at the fans, saying, "Look everybody, I'm every bit as good as your hero Bruno."

Time has matured Bill Watts, but very little has changed about the man. The bitterness has left, but he's still the same tough guy I saw that night at the Garden. I think I could have told Eddie Gilbert a few things about Watts, but some of these young geniuses never stop to ask for advice. I would have told Gilbert that this "old man" he was dealing with was tough as nails and taking him on was a big mistake. Instead, Gilbert learned that the hard way.

WRESTLIN

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.



Dusty Rhodes

TOP10

- 1—HULK HOGAN WWF World champion 302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—DUSTY RHODES NWA World champion 302, Austin, TX
- 3—NIKITA KOLOFF No. 1 contender: U.S. title 275, Moscow, Russia
- 4—RANDY SAVAGE Intercontinental champion 245, Sarasota, FL
- 5—TERRY GORDY UWF heavyweight champion 289, Chattanooga, TN
- 6—NICK BOCKWINKEL AWA World champion 245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 7—RIC FLAIR
 No. 1 contender: NWA title
 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—CHRIS ADAMS World Class champion 230, Stratford, England
- 9—MAGNUM T.A. No. 2 contender: U.S. title 245, Chesapeake, VA
- 10—LEX LUGAR
 No. 1 contender: Southern title
 280, Chicago, IL

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS NWA World tag team champions Combined weight: 472 pounds
- 2—THE ROAD WARRIORS No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 3—THE BRITISH BULLDOGS

 WWF World tag team champions
 Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 4—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title Combined weight: 453 pounds
- 5—PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS

 AWA World tag team champions

 Combined weight: \$15 pounds
- 6—THE FANTASTICS

 No. 1 contenders to UWF tag team title

 Combined weight: 462 pounds
- 7—THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS
 No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
 Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 8—BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title Combined weight: 515 pounds
- 9—THE FABULOUS ONES U.S. tag team champions Combined weight: 479 pounds
- 10—RAYMOND & JACQUES ROUGEAU
 No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title
 Combined weight: 471 pounds

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to the regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current position of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings). Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and mail that comes to our offices.

NWA

World Champion: DUSTY RHODES 302, Austin, TX

- 1—NIKITA KOLOFF 275, Moscow, Russia
- 2—TULLY BLANCHARD 235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—MAGNUM T.A. 245, Chesapeake, VA
- 4—RIC FLAIR 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—TERRY GORDY 289, Chattanooga, TN
- 6—BARRY WINDHAM 236, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—RICK MORTON 228, Memphis, TN
- 8—LEX LUGAR 280, Chicago, IL 9—BRUISER BRODY
- 284, Albuquerque, NM 10—RICK MARTEL 236, Quebec City, Quebec

AWA

World Champion: NICK BOCKWINKEL 245, Beverly Hills, CA

- 1—SGT. SLAUGHTER 310, Parris Island, SC
- 2—LARRY ZBYSZKO 248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 3—STAN HANSEN 303, Borger, TX
- 4—SCOTT HALL 290, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—NORD THE BARBARIAN 316, Bozeman, MT
- 6—COL. DeBEERS
 265, Cape Town, South Africa
- 7—JIMMY SNUKA 251, Fiji Islands
- 8—BRUISER BRODY 284, Albuquerque, NM
- 9—BORIS ZUKHOV 254, Leningrad, Russia
- 10—LEON WHITE 375, Denver, CO

WWF

World Champion: HULK HOGAN 302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—RANDY SAVAGE 245, Sarasota, FL
- 2—RICK STEAMBOAT 238, Honolulu, HI
- 3—JAKE ROBERTS 246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 4—PAUL ORNDORFF 253, Brandon, FL
- 5—MAGNIFICENT MURACO 274, Sunset Beach, HI
- 6—JOHN STUDD 364, Los Angeles, CA
- 7—ADRIAN ADONIS 303, New York, NY
- 8—KING KONG BUNDY 468, Atlantic City, NJ
- 9—DICK SLATER 235, Tampa, FL
- 10—HARLEY RACE 255, Kansas City, MO

WORLD CHAMPIONSHII

- 1—NIKITA KOLOFF 275, Moscow, Russia
- 2—TULLY BLANCHARD 235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—MAGNUM T.A. 245, Chesapeake, VA
- 4—ARN ANDERSON 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—DUSTY RHODES
 302, Austin, TX
- 6—JIM GARVIN 235, Tampa, FL
- 7—RONNIE GARVIN 231, Montreal, Quebec
- 8—OLE ANDERSON 253, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—BUDDY LANDELL 236, Los Angeles, CA
- 10—BILL DUNDEE 214, Melbourne, Australia

HAL GRATINGS

WORLD CLASS

- 1—CHRIS ADAMS 230, Stratford, England
- 2—BUZZ SAWYER 240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 3—RICK RUDE 246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 4—LANCE VON ERICH 260, Arlington, TX
- 5—BRIAN ADIDAS 238, Denton, TX
- 6—BRUISER BRODY 284, Albuquerque, NM
- 7—KEVIN VON ERICH 239, Denton, TX
- 8—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER 360, Sudan
- 9—STEVE SIMPSON 230, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 10—KILLER BROOKS 261, Waxahachie, Texas

UWF

- 1—TERRY GORDY 289, Chattanooga, TN
- 2—HACKSAW DUGGAN 280, Glens Falls, NY
- 3—TERRY TAYLOR 225, Vero Beach, FL
- 4—ONE MAN GANG 468, Chicago, IL
- 5—TED DIBIASE 247, Omaha, NB
- 6—MICHAEL HAYES 255, Marietta, GA
- 7—STEVE WILLIAMS 265, Tulsa, OK
- 8-KAMALA 360, Uganda
- 9—THE MISSING LINK 273, parts unknown
- 10—RICK STEINER 265, Detroit, MI

FLORIDA

- 1—MASKED SUPERSTAR 282, parts nknown
- 2—RON BASS 265, Pampa, TX
- 3—LEX LUGAR 280, Chicago, IL
- 4—KENDALL WINDHAM 220, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—BARRY WINDHAM 236, Sweetwater, TX
- 6—KAREEM MUHAMMAD 297, Africa
- 7—ED GANTNER 269, Tampa, FL
- 8—THE WHITE NINJA 231, Japan
- 9—TYREE PRIDE 231, Haiti
- 10—THE CUBAN ASSASSIN 236, Cuba

MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—BAM BAM BIGELOW 390, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 2—JOS LeDUC 280, Godbout, Quebec
- 3—JERRY LAWLER 234, Memphis, TN
- 4—HILLBILLY ELMER 406, Philadelphia, MS
- 5—PAUL DIAMOND 230, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 6—AUSTIN IDOL 240, Las Vegas, NV
- 7—AIKO SATO 238, Tokyo, Japan
- 8—PAT TANAKA 225, Honolulu, Hawaii
- 9—J.T. SOUTHERN 251, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- 10—PORKCHOP CASH 248, Mobile, AL

CONTINENTAL

- 1—WENDELL COOLEY 220, Milton, FL
- 2—JERRY STUBBS 235, Pensacola, FL
- 3—THE BULLET 234, parts unknown
- 4—TONY ANTHONY 248, New Orleans, LA
- 5—EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET 227, South Wales
- 6—ROY WELCH 224, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 7—STEVE ARMSTRONG 234, Marietta, GA
- 8—TOM PRITCHARD 220, Houston, TX
- 9—TOMMY RICH 232, Hendersonville, TN
- 10—BRAD ARMSTRONG 226, Marietta, GA

NORTHWEST

- 1—RIP OLIVER 245, Tampa, FL
- 2—RICKY SANTANA 235, Orlando, FL
- 3—COCOA SAMOA 239, Samoa
- 4—BRADY BOONE 236, Charlotte, NC
- 5—MIKE MILLER 260, Memphis, TN
- 6—SCOTT DORING 255, Minneapolis, MN
- 7—VINNIE VALENTINO 241, Albuquerque, NM
- 8—JOEY JACKSON 234, Noew Orleans, LA
- 9—TAMA SAMOA 243, Samoa
- 10—STONEY BURKE 225, Cheyenne, WY

MOST POPULAR

- 1—HULK HOGAN 302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—DUSTY RHODES 302, Austin, TX
- 3—RICK STEAMBOAT 238, Honolulu, HI
- 4—HACKSAW DUGGAN 280, Glens Falls, NY
- 5—RICK MORTON 228, Memphis, TN
- 6—LEX LUGAR 280, Chicago, IL
- 7—MAGNUM T.A. 245, Chesapeake, VA
- 8—TERRY TAYLOR 225, Vero Beach, FL
- 9—LANCE VON ERICH 260, Arlington, TX
- 10—ROBERT GIBSON 225 Pensacola, FL

MOST HATED

- 1—NIKITA KOLOFF 275, Moscow, Russia
- 2—RANDY SAVAGE 245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—TERRY GORDY 289, Chattanooga, TN
- 4—PAUL ORNDORFF 253, Brandon, FL
- 5—RIC FLAIR 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—JAKE ROBERTS 246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 7—RICK RUDE 246, Robbinsdale, MIN
- 8—JIM GARVIN 235, Tampa, FL
- 9—STAN HANSEN 303, Borger, TX
- 10—TULLY BLANCHARD 235, San Antonio, TX

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

How about this new category? A letter from Todd Cockrell of Hampton, Virginia, follows through on an interesting idea:

Over the years, I have listened to many wrestlers claim that they possess the "most devastating move in professional wrestling." I have compiled my list of the 10 most destructive finishing maneuvers, and three honorable mentions. These are rated according to success of use, times used, and the overall destructive potential of the particular move.



Eaton vs. Gibson

DEVASTATING MANEUVERS

1—THE DDT Jake "The Snake" Roberts

2—THE GOURDBUSTER Arn Anderson

3—FACE-FIRST PILEDRIVER Col. DeBeers

4—BRAINBUSTER
"Gorgeous" Jim Garvin

5—PILEDRIVER
Nick Bockwinkel

6—RUSSIAN SICKLE

Nikita Koloff

7—THE LARIAT Stan Hansen

8—SLINGSHOT SUPLEX Tully Blanchard

9—BELLY-TO-BELLY SUPLEX Magnum T.A.

10—ANYTHING FROM TOP ROPE
"Beautiful" Bobby Eaton

Todd's letter closes with his three honorable mentions: Terry Taylor's superplex, The Road Warriors' gravity drop backbreaker, and The Rock 'n' Roll Express' double-dropkick.

We fully expect that Todd's ratings will elicit a huge response from readers (the address is at the bottom of this page), and before you take pen to paper, we'd like you to think about this question: What *other* categories might be able to be rated in top 10 fashion?

In the past, "Ratings Analysis" has rated valets, managers, and announcers. Now we offer Todd Cockrell's top 10 maneuvers. But what else can you imagine rating? Maybe the top 10 of a particular maneuver, such as the piledriver? How about the top 10 ring robes? Top 10 television productions of wrestling shows? Top 10 preliminary wrestlers? Top 10 foreheads of wrestlers? Maybe even a bottom 10 of something? Serious or silly, compile your own set of ratings for an offbeat category and send it to "Ratings Analysis." If it's interesting or funny, or both, we'll print it in a future installment.

Bits 'n' pieces: Several letters to this column have wondered whether the fact that we've had The Fabulous Freebirds rated number seven in the tag team category for the past two months meant that we had changed our policy regarding six-man tag teams. No, we have not changed our policy; we simply neglected to follow it. In the future, only a twomember combination of such a team will be eligible for a



The Fabulous Freebirds

rating (for example, Michael Hayes and Buddy Roberts, or Hayes and Terry Gordy, or Gordy and Roberts) ... Several more letters have chastized us for our lack of inclusion of Arn Anderson in the World Championship ratings. Those who sent such missives will be happy to note that Arn is ranked number four

in the World Championship area ... And still more letters are wondering about inconsistencies in our ratings-minor things such as Nikita Koloff weighing 276 in the Most Hated ratings, and 275 elsewhere (no, he has not undergone a new diet regimen!). Or such things as Kong Kong Bundy ranked at 446 pounds, where the WWF announces him at 468 pounds. Well, in the specific case of Koloff, that's simply a glitch in our computer typesetting system (and our human proofreading system!). As far as Bundy, well, we suppose it does seem as if he's gained a few pounds lately, so we're correcting that as well. Occasionally, we have to update weights and places, depending on the physique of a wrestler, or whether he's made a big move from one home to another. Adrian Adonis has put on a few pounds lately, for example, and that's been reflected in the ratings. We've made about a dozen updates in various areas this month, cleaning up some inconsistencies and errors. We always welcome your letters pointing out such mistakes to us (even when we have Tully Blanchard's home town noted as Moscow!).

Keep those cards and letters coming! There's plenty to write to us about this month. We want your unusual ratings categories, and we want to know where else we've screwed up in the ratings themselves! Send all your cards, letters, telegrams, mailgrams, and Express Mail packages to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o The Wrestler; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

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ON SALE SEPTEMBER 23

Inside Inside



Are THE BRITISH BULLDOGS good enough to beat THE ROAD WARRIORS or THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS or THE FREEBIRDS? Read our analysis and find out!



Did HAWK and ANIMAL soften up RIC FLAIR for DUSTY RHODES to win the NWA World title? PAUL ELLERING seems to think so!

PLUS . . .

An amazing story continues: CHRIS
ADAMS wins the World Class title from
RICK RUDE . . . For four decades, BILL
WATTS is still walking tall for America
. . . NICK BOCKWINKEL blasts STAN
HANSEN in an exclusive "Hotseat"
interview . . . LEX LUGAR and SIR
OLIVER HUMPERDINK square off
"One on One"

All this and much more . . . in the November 1986 issue of Inside Wrestling

ON SALE NOW!

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

being fair in some respects.

One point was the WWF's failure to mention that Lanny Poffo and Randy Savage are brothers. Well, since Jimmy Garvin entered the NWA recently, I haven't heard anybody mention that he was Ronnie's brother. Granted, the fact that they are brothers is well-known among long time wrestling fans, but how about for those who have just found the sport since WrestleMania 2?

On the subject of Jimmy Garvin, why haven't the NWA TV people mentioned that he was formerly AWA World tag team champion along with Steve Regal, who also has just recently entered WTBS territory?

Could it be that Vince McMahon and Ted Turner/Jim Crockett/Bob Geigel are illegitimate brothers in a ratings war?

WILLIAM WELLEK Latrobe, PA

FANTASTIC FANTASTICS

Thank you, Wrestler, for realizing that there are other wrestlers out there other than the Von Erichs, The Road Warriors, and The Rock 'n' Roll Express. The above-mentioned teams are fine wrestlers, but The Fantastics—Tommy Rogers and Bobby Fulton—are, in my opinion, more than just fine.

I have been following The Fantastics ever since they made their debut in World Class, and have enjoyed every minute of their matches. Some of the other wrestlers could take lessons from Tommy and Bobby on how to treat their fans. I have never seen Tommy or Bobby too busy for an autograph or to have their picture taken with a fan.

Since The Fantastics left World Class, four of us travel to Oklahoma City every other Sunday to catch some real wrestling—UWF has all the class now!

BARBARA BOULTON Grapevine, TX

44THE BIG ONE"



The year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is always the most anticipated wrestling magazine of the year. And the 1985 year-end issue (March 1986 cover date) was the best one we ever published. At 92 pages, it was our biggest magazine ever and, in addition to the year-end features *PWI* readers have come to expect, it contained eight full-color pages. We have limited supplies of this newsstand sell-out, so don't be disappointed twice.

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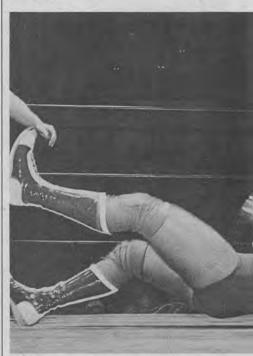
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Q&A

(Continued from page 24)

A: Well, obviously, The Freebirds did a number on Watts, so they're on my side. But right now they're not looking for a manager. They've done pretty well on their own for a long time, and anyway, it looks as if Watts is going to start picking on The Freebirds, so they have other things to concern themselves with.



Gilbert, who will wrestle from time to time "to prove he's a man," kicks Taylor in the throat (above). Happier times in the Gilbert family (below), when Eddie was a scientific wrestler and an upright citizen.



- O: I'm not sure that Watts would be picking on The Freebirds. After all, they did attack him.
- A: That's true, but once again, Watts has a responsibility to deal with the situation as an offical of the UWF, not a wrestler. Anyway, I predict that Watts has gone a little too far this time. Within a few weeks, he should be laid out in some hospital.
- Q: Which would make you pretty happy.
- A: You'd better believe it.
- O: You seem to be a little bitter.



A: I'm not bitter. I'm angry. You'll remember that this whole thing started because Watts decided that Korchenko couldn't drape the Russian flag over his beaten opponents. Now you tell me where it's written in the rulebook that a wrestler can't do that. Watts, Mr. America himself, decided to add patriotic feelings to the his rulebook. Korchenko's actions were purely ceremonial, nothing else. Watts just decided to make a mountain out of a molehill. In the land of the free, you would think that a real American would defend a person's rights to air his views, but obviously, Watts is as much of a fraud as a human being as he is as UWF president.

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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 12)

out learning the iron claw. However, we're now very good friends, and if Chris asked me to teach him the iron claw, I would happily do so."

Q: "I have a question for Stan Hansen: How do you compare your 'lariat' to the 'Russian sickle' of Nikita Koloff?"-David Wallace, Savannah, GA

A: We posed the question to Hansen a week before he was stripped of the AWA World title. "I detect a trace of sarcasm in your voice, imbecile, and if I'm ever in Savannah, I'll give you a chance to answer the guestion on your own," he said. "The answer is simple, boy. Nikita Koloff has never been the champion of anything and I'm the AWA World champion. The lariat is a deadly weapon and nearly 10 times more lethal than the Russian sickle."

Q: "My question is for Ted DiBiase: Since you suffered the same injury about five years ago, how did you feel when you saw your friend Steve Williams getting piledrived into the floor by The Freebirds? Also, what do you plan to do about it?"-Jamie Sommers, Sante Fe, NM

A: "I was a little woozy when it actually happened," replied DiBiase, "but I watched the tapes and got sick to my stomach. Actually so sick that I was doubled over. All of a sudden, I remembered the pain that I went through in 1981 and there was one of my best friends going through the same thing. Naturally, I was horrified and I plan to do everything in my



Ted DiBiase, who was severely injured by The Freebirds back in 1981, empathizes with Steve Williams.

power to get revenge against The Freebirds. Whatever has to be done, I'll do, and I won't be satisfied until Gordy, Roberts, and Hayes are all lying in the hospital."

Q: "We have a question for Jim Cornette: Why do you always interfere in matches between The Midnight Express and The Rock 'n' Roll Express? How can you still call yourselves champions when you know it isn't true?"-Mandi Jones & Krystal Gillespie, Sumter, SC

A: "What do you mean, 'it isn't true," replied Cornette. "If you'll turn to the ratings page of this magazine, you'll notice that The Midnight Express is the number one tag team in the entire world, not just the NWA. You must be dizzy, Krystal. We have the belts and that's why we call ourselves champions. very simple. And one more thing. I do not always interfere in matches with The Rock 'n' Roll Express. I only jump in when absolutely necessary and when it's obvious that Gibson and Morton are breaking the rules."

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August 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: Koloff and Smirnoff. Bruno vs. Zbyszko, Idol, Von Erichs, Rhodes, Hogan

June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. Adonis & Ventura, Snuka, Patera, Flair

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bra-vo. Steamboat & Rich, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie

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December 1982/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. Hulk Hogan, Von Erich, Orn-dorff, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Su-per Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.



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April Graha dorff.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbys-zko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. Tommy Rich, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

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April 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rocky

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December 1984/COLOR PINUP: Kerry Von Erich. Barry Windham, Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Mag-num T.A. Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund,

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Gar-vin. Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. Hogan vs. Piper, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junk-yard Dog. Magnum T.A, Von Erich, Ho-gan, AWA scouting reports.

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oril 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. endi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, asty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.



MAY 1986

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CORRESPONDENTS

(Continued from page 10)

Afi ... King Tonga beat The Iron Sheik by disqualification . . . David Sammartino defeated Les Thornton ... King Kong Bundy beat Tony Garea.

Kansas City, KS (Correspondent-Donald Hall): The main event pitted Bruiser Brody against Bulldog Bob Brown in a bloody steel cage match with a special stipulation. If Brody were to win, he would get five minutes in the ring with Brown's manager, Slick.

From the outset, Brody totally dominated the match, pummeling Brown with boots and fists to the head. Finally, Brody ended it with his patented big knee to the head.

The Bruiser then dragged the 130-pound manager into the ring and was beating him senseless when Hacksaw Butch Reed came running down the aisle. Reed climbed into the cage and threw medicated powder into the face of Brody. Reed proceeded beat Brody to a bloody pulp when Joe Lightfoot came out of the dressing room with a two-by-four and cleared the ring.

In other bouts: Rufus R. Jones and Butch Reed battled to a double-disqualification Lightfoot & Billy Two Eagles upset the Central States tag team champions Bobby Jaggers & Moondog Moretti in a non-title match . . . Cousin Junior defeated Bob Owens . . . Crusher Blackwell squashed J.R. Hogg ... Rick McCord beat John Paul Demann.

Cleveland, OH (Correspondent-Jason Markovc): NWA participated in a special baseball-wrestling spectacular at Cleveland Municipal Stadium and in the main event, Baron Von Raschke took on Jimmy Valiant.

The Baron dominated most of the match, repeatedly using the iron claw on the "Boogie Woogie



Baron Von Raschke jabs his fingers into Jimmy Valiant's throat. Von Raschke's manager, Paul Jones, has played a major role in this raging feud.

Man's" abdomen. Valiant took control a few times, but every time he did, Paul Jones interfered and the tables turned back in Von Raschke's favor. Finally, the fans' chants of "bald-headed geek" began to bother the Baron, and he let go of Valiant. He wandered to the corner, got up on the second rope, and began to yell at the fans.

Valiant regained his composure and attacked Von Raschke from behind. While the Baron was down, Paul Jones tried to enter the ring, but Valiant worked him over, went back to Von Raschke, and rolled him up for the pin at the 11:30 mark.

In other bouts: The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated Ivan & Nikita Koloff ... Ron Garvin & Sam Houston drew with Arn Anderson & Krusher Khrushchev ... Don Kernodle pinned Mid-Atlantic champion Black Bart in a non-title match ... Konga the Barbarian defeated Todd Champion.

Memphis, TN (Correspondent— Scott Bowden): A crowd of approximately 10,000 filled the Mid-South Coliseum to watch Jerry Lawler battle Bill Dundee in a loser-leave-town match.

The action was virtually nonstop as Lawler and Dundee pummeled each other with piledrivers, clotheslines, and punches. Referee Jerry Calhoun could not control the bout as the two bitter rivals brawled outside of the ring. Dundee opened up a gash on Lawler's forehead by slamming his head into a ringpost. He then hurled Lawler back into the ring and mounted the ropes for an aerial attack. But Lawler caught Dundee with a right hand as he jumped off the rope.

With the crowd firmly behind him, Lawler took control and gained several two-counts. Lawler prepared to finish off Dundee with a fistdrop, but Dundee moved out of the way at the last instant. Still groggy, Dundee slowly climbed the ropes again. An alert Lawler shook Dundee off the ropes and followed up with a devastating piledriver for the victory.

In other bouts: Austin Idol beat Larry Sharpe ... Jimmy Snuka & Giant Hillbilly Elmer were disqualified in their match with Fire & Flame ... The M.O.D. Squad beat The Nightmares ... Akio Sato and Tarzan Goto defeated Jeff Jarrett and Pat Tanaka.

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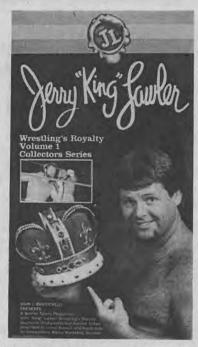
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)



Dark Journey is headed for a major feuded with Missy Hyatt in the UWF region.

Dark Journey and Missy Hyatt seem to be stealing most of the headlines in the UWF region lately. Michael Hayes of The Fabulous Freebirds appears to be making a move on Dark Journey, while Hyatt has joined forces with Eddie Gilbert. Missy knocked out Tommy Rogers of The Fantastics during a televised match, helping Gilbert and Bladerunner Sting win the UWF tag team title. With his stable rapidly depleting, Gilbert has returned to wrestling full-time ... The Freebirds have a new album coming out called "Rebel Rock" and the first single is a remake of "The Boys Are Back In Town."

Nick Bockwinkel apparently still has a little of the ol' rulebreaker left in him. Bockwinkel, the new AWA champion, recently faced off against Jerry Lawler in Louisville. Before the match. Nick grabbed the ring microphone and told Lawler that if Jerry's a fair fighter, he won't use a fist during the match. Well, Bockwinkel was getting beaten badly, and about 15 minutes into the match he reached into his trunks, pulled out a weapon, hit Lawler, and scored the pin. By the way, there still has not been an official comment from former AWA champion Stan Hansen regarding his departure from Denver's McNichols Arena on June 29, causing him to be stripped of the title in favor of

Bockwinkel.

Because of the furor over the Hulk Hogan-Paul Orndorff incident. Harley Race's courageous victory in the WWF's King Of The Ring tournament in Foxboro, Massachusetts, was overlooked by many people. Let me say for the record, however, that Harley's victory over Pedro Morales brought back memories of Race, the seven-time NWA champion, and not the man who has been stumbling through recent WWF matches ... Hogan and Omdorff are busily gearing up for their upcoming matches. Both wrestlers refuse to comment on the incident that followed their meeting with John Studd and King Kong Bundy, but insiders claim that the bad blood between Hogan and Orndorff had been brewing for some time.

Sqt. Slaughter has shown up in the Central States area, where the Sarge is in heated pursuit of Bob Brown's title ... The wild man feud of the year could be taking place in the World Class region. Bruiser Brody went after Abdullah the Butcher during a recent television taping and it should be interesting to watch these two go at it in the ring ... The World Wrestling Council Universal championship will remain vacant until September, when a tournament will be held involving Carlos Colon, Jumbo Tsuruta, Brodie, Abdullah, and many others.

Great Samu, who won the Canadian International title from Dino Bravo in June, has offered Rick Martel a shot at the belt. Samu is also defending the title against Bravo ... Fans in the Montreal area will want to keep an eye on Steve Strong, a 6'1", 285-pounder who is currently keeping Martel busy ... The National Wrestling Federation is discussing the possibility of creating a women's championship and if so, Wendi Richter figures to be a top contender.

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches!

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HOGAN VS. ORNDORFF

(Continued from page 31)



age. It looked great. It made fantastic copy. But it was a moment basked in illusion. There was nothing behind that handshake; it was not strengthened by shared philosophies or common goals, more a response to the actions of common enemies than anything

This one, like most wrestling feuds, is a story of conflicting and clashing egos. It is no great secret that both musclemen are narcissistic to the point of vaingloryneither willing to accept anything less than center stage. To their credit, and to the surprise of wrestling pundits everywhere, both Hogan and Orndorff adjusted their psyches, spreading the spotlight equally between them.

But back then it was easy. The threat of Roddy Piper loomed larger than life and supplied Orndorff and Hogan with a mutual target, one able to absorb all their past differences and convince the big men that theirs was a match made in the stars. After Wrestle-Mania 1, Piper began a slow retreat, concentrating more on talking from his Pit than grappling in the ring. As the Scotsman's challenge and the momentum of WrestleMania inevitably waned, the WWF returned to conventional form, with Hogan as its top gun, headlining cards in big city arenas while his tag team partner and "friend" Orndorff was either rele-



Watching Hogan, Orndorff, and Mr. T come together at Nassau Coliseum (above left) made it difficult to remember the fierce rivalry that existed (above right).

gated to the undercard or the main event in school auditoriums and barns throughout the tiring and glitterless small town circuit.

Orndorff never missed a date, never allowed his injured pride to interfere with his professional obligations. After all, nothing had been promised. There were no guarantees. Orndorff had cast his lot and he had only himself to blame. Right?

"Wrong! Dead wrong, brudda!" The speaker is "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka, formerly of the WWF and an unwilling expert on the politics that dominate the Federation. "You see, man, that is how they get you. You're not promised anything on paper, but by the way they talk to you, you think that you're gonna get all kinds of title matches. Even though you know that they'll never match two fan favorites together, you begin to believe you'll that be exception."

Snuka believed for several years, paying his dues on the same farm circuit treadmill that Orndorff is now on before he left the WWF in disgust.

"In the end it was all lies," he says. "They treat Hogan as if he were the only star. He gets all the (Continued on page 60)

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March 1978/Andre-Flair, Mascaras, Koloff, Rhodes, Inoki.

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May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II

January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn. March 1981/SPECIAL EDITION-Re-

sults of 1980 Fan Awards Poll

April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper. August 1981/Freebirds, Mascaras,

Wrestling II, Brisco. September 1981/Backlund-Mosca,

Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog. October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Han-sen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff

November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

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May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Super-star, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink. January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinke

February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler

March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.

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May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.



JULY 1983

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Ka-mala-Brody, Slater, Backlund. December 1983/Windham-LeDuc,

Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca. February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Han-sen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blan-chard, Brisco, AWA tag tourny.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling. September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs-Special cover-

age of two big cards. October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card. November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel. Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.



JANUARY 1985

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pic-tures, Blair. May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, amboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A, Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka. August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Omdorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr, Atlanta Steamboat

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdul-lah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Han-sen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, first UWF title

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HOGAN VS. ORNDORFF

(Continued from page 58)



While always giving the outward impression of having a stable relationship, many insiders knew it was only a matter of time before Orndorff and Hogan had a violent split.

glory. And I liked Hogan. He's not a bad man. He doesn't mean to step all over people. That's the way it is, though. That's the way it's always been.

"I know what Orndorff went through. In any other alliance he's a superstar, a champion. In the WWF he's just another chump. After a while you begin blaming all of your problems on Hogan. He's out there. He's visible. You know if you can get to him you can have all his fame, all his glory.

"I figured Orndorff was ready to explode for a while now. It just took something silly, anything, like that phone call to tick him off. Hogan better watch out. Orndorff is a tough man. The man is mean. The man can fight. The man can wrestle. Hogan can only fight."

Orndorff didn't necessarily want this showdown with Hogan. Mr. Wonderful would prefer the simpler route of being rewarded for having done his job well. Instead he tired of battling the machine style politics of the WWF, tired of the senseless charade he had been performing for the past year.

A cautious man by nature, Orn-

dorff did not act impulsively when clotheslined Hogan piledrived him into semiconsciousness. They were the thoughtful actions of a desperate man, one driven to desperate measures in order to ensure his survival as a professional. The wrestling world breathlessly awaits the outcome.

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MIKE VON ERICH

(Continued from page 33)

"No worry," Mike replied. "Nothing can keep me away from that ring tonight. That doctor's gonna have to tie me down."

That afternoon, Mike made his way downtown to the doctor's office for his final physical before returning to the ring. Naturally, a star such as Mike Von Erich does not walk along the crowded streets of a busy city without being approached by numerous fans, and today was no exception.

Once again, Mike walked through the door of the doctor's office 15 minutes late. A half-hour later, he was given a clean bill of health and the physician gave the final signature to Mike's license to wrestle in the state of Texas.



Lance and Mike stunned Hacksaw Butch Reed so badly with this double-dropkick, they knocked the "H" off his trunks!

"You're a medical miracle," said the doctor. "I've never seen anything like it in my entire career. Look at this. This is a chart of your progress over the past six months. You've gone from 140 to 210 pounds and from what I can tell, it's all muscle. Your shoulder is nearly perfectly healed, and, from a medical standpoint, it would be hard to tell what you've been through."



Mike realizes that it will take months to rid himself of the ring rust, so he will concentrate on tag team wrestling for a while.

A smile came to Mike's face. The long ordeal was nearly over. He had proven to others what he had always known: that through faith and courage, nearly anything is possible. Nine months earlier, a minister had already said the last rites for Mike when his temperature rose to 107 degrees and his lungs and kidneys began to fail. Mike was lying unconscious on the brink of death, and even if he did survive, doctors predicted that he would suffer serious brain damage.

But Mike had proven them wrong and that night in Dallas, all the months of pain and suffering would pay off.

The 23,000 eyes in Reunion Arena were all peeled on the entrance to the dressing room, and when Mike Von Erich took his first step out the door, the crowd simultaneously exploded with applause. Then, Mike held the six-man tag team belt over his head and the crowd was in a wild frenzy. As he shook hands with fans while walking to the ring, there was barely a dry eye in the place.

Then Mike climbed into the ring and surveyed the scene surrounding (Continued on page 64)

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MIKE VON ERICH

(Continued from page 63)



Von Erich tells Mark Lowrance and the TV audience that his shoulder injury will not stop him. It was following Mike's shoulder surgery that he contracted toxic shock syndrome—that very nearly did stop him!

him. Loving, adoring fans poured their hearts out to this brave wrestler and Mike was not about to disappoint. Finally, the match got underway and from the outset, it was apparent that challengers Borne, Reed, and Sawyer did not have a chance.

The night belonged to the Von Erichs, and although Mike was shaky and a little off on his timing, he still displayed sparks of brilliance. As expected, Lance did much of the wrestling, and in the end pinned Borne to successfully defend the championship.

"It felt strange to be back," ad-

mitted Mike. "I was mostly wrestling on instinct, because I'm not sharp, and I felt that my timing was off on my aerial maneuvers. Physically, though, I feel fine. It's just a matter of fine tuning my game, but that will take some time. I'm in no hurry. But I'll tell you one thing . . ."

Mike's voice tailed off and he stared into open space, but what was on his mind was obvious. He had done the impossible. He was back to where he wanted to be. He had relived his dream.

Mike Von Erich was a wrestler again.

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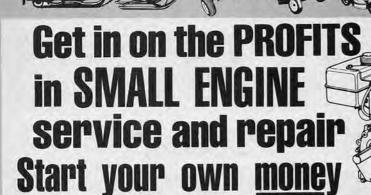
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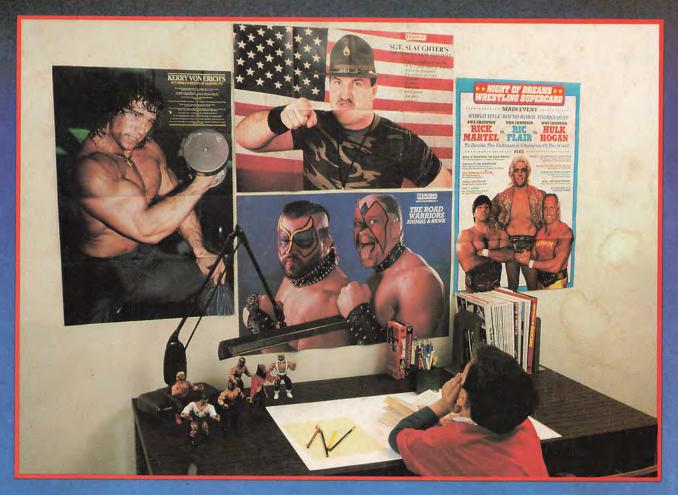


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